

# POV Functional Area Assessment

Aviation Branch Safety Office  
Fort Rucker, Alabama

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ARMY AVIATION WARFIGHTING CENTER



# Purpose

To provide an overview of POV  
accident performance and  
identify tools to aid in  
preventing the “next accident”



# Personal Failures Which Contribute to POV Accidents

- Failure to Recognize Hazards
- Underestimating Personal Risk
- Overestimating Personal Ability

**Bottom Line:** *Soldiers fail to use the five-step risk management process during off-duty activities*

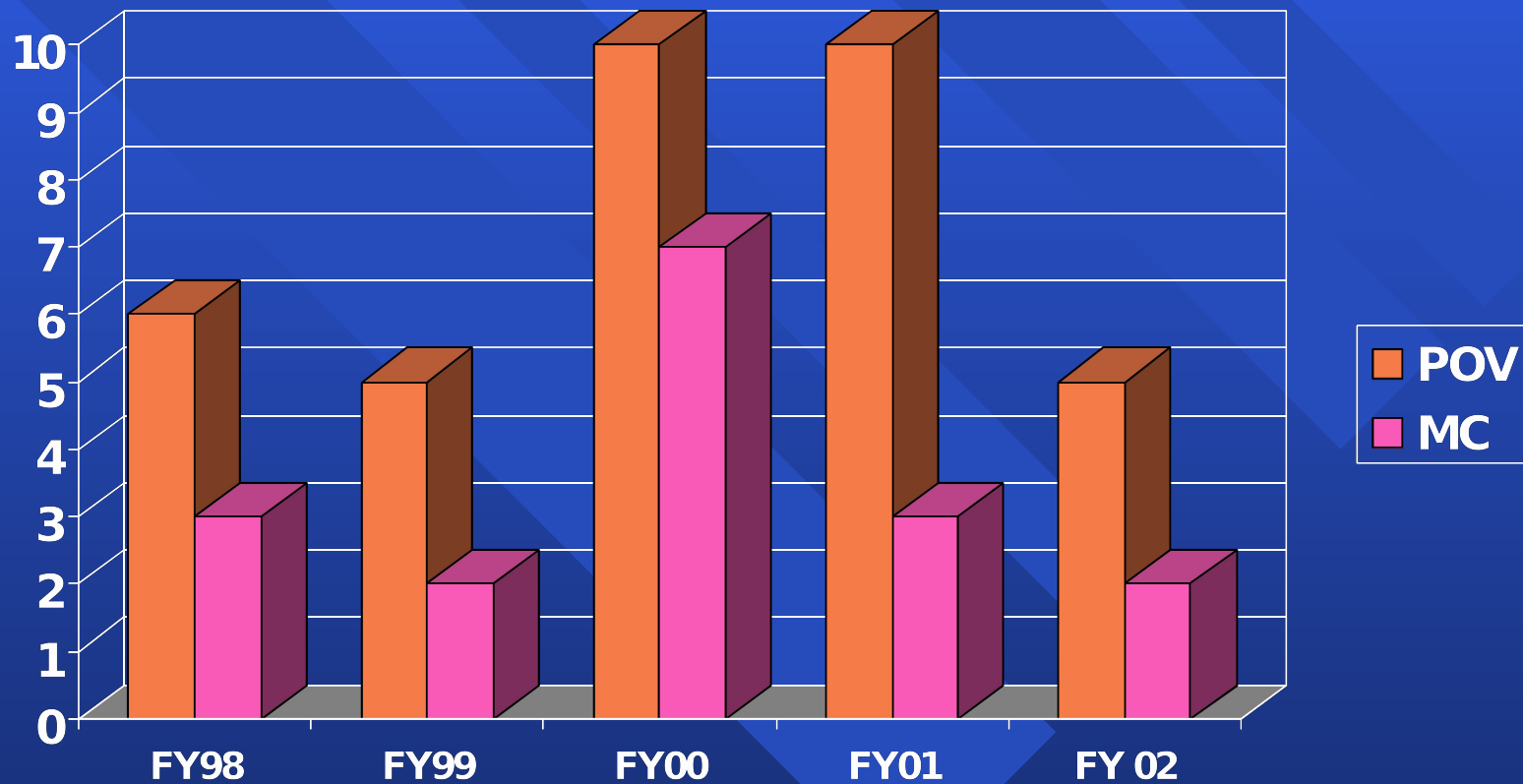


# Leading Causes of Army-wide POV Accidents

- Fatigue
- Speed
- Failure to wear seatbelts
- Alcohol



# FY 98-FY 02 Accidents



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# Fort Rucker FY 02 POV Accidents

- SM sustained back and neck strain when her POV was rear-ended on a 4-lane interstate highway after she braked suddenly to avoid hitting the car in front of her. The passenger, also a SM, was not wearing a seatbelt and sustained a fractured L12 vertebrae (Off duty) (2 injuries)
- SM sustained a concussion and bruises when he lost control of his POV while driving under the influence of alcohol. This accident resulted in the death of another SM who was ejected from the vehicle. (Off duty) (1 injury, 1 fatality)



# Fort Rucker FY 02 POV Accidents

- SM sustained a head injury and hip fracture when her POV was struck on the driver's side door by another vehicle. The SM was intoxicated at the time of the accident. (Off duty)
- **SM** sustained multiple injuries when he fell asleep at the wheel of his POV and lost control. (Off duty)
- **SM** sustained a neck strain when the POV she was operating was broad-sided by another vehicle that failed to stop at a traffic light. (Off duty)



## Fort Rucker FY 02 POV Accidents

- **SM** sustained a fractured leg when his motorcycle collided with another vehicle on Hwy 231 south of Montgomery, AL. SM had completed the motorcycle safety course. (Off duty)
- **SM** sustained severe brain and brain stem damage when he lost control of his motorcycle while speeding and driving under the influence of alcohol. (Off duty)





## “Next Accident” Profile

- Soldier obtained one or more AER loans in last 12 months
- Soldier arrested for spouse/child abuse since being assigned to unit
- Bill collectors call unit about Soldier's debts
- Soldier arrested for DUI in last 12 months
- Soldier's check cashing privileges revoked
- Soldier has history of accidents



## “Next Accident” Profile

- Soldier is between the ages of 18-25
- Soldier experiencing illness within family or child rearing problems
- Soldier undergoing marriage/family counseling
- Soldier under stress due to job
- Soldier appears frequently to be fatigued
- Soldier involved in altercations on/off post



# Leadership Failure

- No uniform enforcement of policy regarding discipline
- Known standards are not enforced; failure to act upon repeat offenders
- Inadequate application of risk management process or no understanding of it
- Failure to delegate necessary authority to subordinates



# Apply the Five-step Process

- **Identify**: Reckless driving; failure to use seat belts/motorcycle safety equipment
- **Assess**: Injury or death to SM/others
- **Make decisions**: Counseling/training
- **Implement**: Enroll SM in training; revoke privileges if behavior continues
- **Supervise**: Consult with first-line supervisor to ensure continued compliance



# Six Point POV Program

- **Command Emphasis**: Positive leadership
- **Discipline**: Identify “at risk” soldiers and take proactive measures to modify behavior
- **Risk Management**: Use the 5-Step Process
- **Standards**: Set them and enforce them
- **Provide Alternatives**: Devise activities to keep soldiers on post and off the roads
- **Commander's Assessment**: Conduct after each POV fatality or serious injury



# Be Proactive

- Use in-processing to assess soldier training/licensing; brief requirements
- Ensure soldiers receive ADIP and motorcycle safety training
- Discuss POV/traffic safety issues during safety councils and circulate information
- Long weekend briefings/POV inspections
- Local Conditions video (920-011-1902-B)



## Other Approaches

- Conduct post-accident reviews and provide lessons learned to personnel; back-brief IAW Army Six-Point Program
- Require violators to attend remedial training on weekends
- Suspend or revoke driving privileges as deemed necessary by the commander
- UCMJ action as warranted

